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GUIDE
TO
WEST POINT

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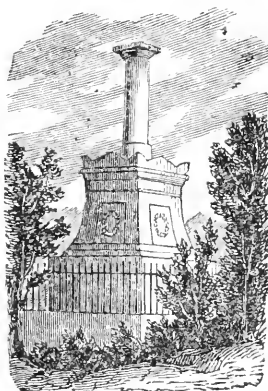
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.





A
GUIDE BOOK TO WEST POINT
AND
VICINITY;

CONTAINING
DESCRIPTIVE, HISTORICAL, AND STATISTICAL
SKETCHES
OF THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,
AND OF OTHER OBJECTS OF INTEREST.



KOSCIUSZKO'S MONUMENT.

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P R E F A C E.

IN preparing this volume for publication, the attempt has been made not only to point out such objects at West Point as deserve the attention of every visiter, but also to present for preservation such information concerning them as may be desirable for subsequent reference. The book is intended to supply a deficiency which has hitherto existed, and proved a serious inconvenience to strangers, and especially to those whose visits have been limited to a few hours. They may here learn what is to be seen and at what moments, and may so regulate their plans as to accomplish the most in the shortest time.

The sources, from which these materials have been derived, are various. Much, of course, is the result of observation. Congressional documents and other papers, not easy of reference, have been examined, and have

contributed somewhat to the contents. Other works have been consulted, and when necessary quoted, and diligent care has been taken to have every statement correct.

To all who have extended to him their assistance and encouragement, the author returns his sincere thanks, with the hope that they will derive satisfaction from the accomplishment of his plans. Being unconnected with the Military Academy, and having no partial interests to serve, the writer wishes to be regarded simply as a "looker on in Venice." If others receive as much pleasure in the perusal, as he has done in the preparation of the book, he will have no cause to complain.

West Point, July, 1844.

GUIDE BOOK TO WEST POINT.

CHAPTER I.

ARRIVAL—WALK TO THE HOTEL—VIEW FROM THE HOTEL.

IN landing at West Point the first thing attracting attention is the perfect order and regularity that prevail. There is no tumult, no boisterous shout, and no annoying crowd. All is quiet and decorum.

A guard is stationed at the wharf, and it was formerly the custom to take the names of all gentlemen arriving at and leaving the post, in order that the commandant might be immediately informed of the arrival and departure of visitors and officers. It happens not unfrequently that an officer of distinction is received with a salute and with other military honors suited to his rank.

The small building near the wharf is open to all, and is designed for the accommodation of any who may be detained in awaiting the arrival of the boats. An omnibus will be found

ready to convey passengers to the hotel, or to any other part of the Point, at a moderate charge. Many, however, prefer to send up their luggage, and climb the hill on foot. Such may follow the omnibus in its winding course, or take a more direct foot-path which goes immediately up the hill. Another path on the left, following the bank of the river, affords a pleasant walk, but it might lead one too far astray.

The hotel, though at some considerable distance from any other building, occupies perhaps the finest situation on the plain. It stands at an elevation of about one hundred and sixty feet, upon the brow of the hill, overlooking the river. Around it extends a large plain, in the north-east corner of which are the ruins of Fort Clinton. Near these is the encampment ground, where the cadets spend eight or ten weeks of the summer in their tents. The south side of the plain is bounded by the most important public buildings, and on the west are located the residences of the superintendent and other officers. The nearest of the chain of hills encircling the plain is Mount Independence, which rises in majestic grandeur, bearing upon its summit the crumbling masonry of Fort Putnam.

Above West Point, the river forms, appa-

rently, a beautiful lake, at the northern extremity of which, some eight miles distant, stands the goodly town of Newburgh. The whole distance is enlivened and beautified with the sails of numerous vessels, while on either side are steep and lofty hills, forming the door-posts, as it were, of this broad avenue. On the side hill, west of the hotel, is seen the Artillery Laboratory, a stone building with turrets and battlements, presenting a warlike appearance, though on a small scale. Beyond this is the village of Camp Town, comprising the barracks of the soldiers, and some other buildings,—and still farther, on a level with the plain, the monuments of the Cemetery may be distinguished among the trees.

After this general description of the view from the hotel, it is our purpose to notice more particularly the walks and buildings in the vicinity, and we think it will be seen that “every spot around the Military Seminary serves to recall glorious names, and deeds of renowned enterprise; and consequently that none more favorable for the education of those who are to sustain the renown which their ancestors won by their bravery and their blood, could have been selected.”*

* Hudson River Portfolio.

CHAPTER II.

WALK AROUND THE PLAIN—WOOD'S MONUMENT—
BUILDINGS—KOSCIUSZKO'S GARDEN—CONSTITUTION
ISLAND—KOSCIUSZKO'S MONUMENT—CAMP TOWN.

WE will suppose ourselves to be walking from the hotel round the plain, to gather such scraps of information as are to be found in passing. As we proceed in this circuitous path toward the flag-staff, we may notice a tall wooden box, corresponding to the sentry-boxes represented in pictures. It is designed for the safe keeping of the flag. Near by stands a cannon, (except during the encampment, when it is removed to a place nearer the tents,) which is fired at 5 A. M. and at sunset, as the morning and evening gun. Here too are stationed four or five mortars, for throwing shells and fire balls at a target within the limits of Fort Clinton.

Just before us on a little hillock, amid a grove of trees, stands a chaste obelisk, which attracts us from our course. It bears these inscriptions :

To the Memory
of
Lieut. Colonel E. D. Wood,
of the
CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
who fell
while leading a Charge
at the
Sortie of Fort Erie,
UPPER CANADA,
17th September, 1814,
in the 31st year of his
Age.

He was
EXEMPLARY as a CHRISTIAN
and
DISTINGUISHED as a SOLDIER.

A PUPIL
of
THIS INSTITUTION,
he died
an Honour
to
HIS COUNTRY.
THIS MEMORIAL
was erected
by his Friend and Commander,
Major General Jacob Brown.

A brave soldier that, who sallied forth from the fort to attack the British on their own ground, and fell at the moment of victory.

Resuming our walk, we find at the corner of the plain three roads beside that from the hotel; the one on the right leading down the hill to Camp Town and to the wharf; the next (known as the Canterbury road) going towards the "West gate," and thence to Fort Putnam, the Cemetery, and Crow's Nest; while that on the left will take us round the plain.

We notice on our right, in passing, the buildings occupied by some of the officers of the Institution, with gardens adjoining them, the arrangement of which evinces much taste. The second house is occupied by the superintendent, Major Delafield, to whose skill the place is indebted for much of its beauty.

We turn suddenly to the left, around the Mess Hall of the Cadets, a low building, not remarkable in its appearance. The vacant space between this building and the next was once occupied by an edifice called the Academy, which was erected about the year 1815, and destroyed by fire in 1838.

The lot on the right is designed for the erection of new barracks, whenever Congress may make appropriations sufficient for their erection.

The South Barrack is the next building on the left, and at right angles to this stands the North Barrack. The former has been built about thirty years, and is very poorly adapted to the necessities of the Institution. Its construction is such as to expose its inmates to great inconveniences, and to sickness; and both of the buildings occupy a part of the plain which should be laid open for military operations. It will add much to the advantages of the Institution and to the appearance of the place, if these two buildings and the Mess Hall are removed from their present localities, and a new building is erected, sufficient to contain all the Cadets, better adapted to the preservation of a strict police, with proper apparatus for warmth and ventilation, and in a style of architecture suited to modern views of improvement.

On our right is seen the north end of the Academy, a commodious stone edifice, 275 feet long, and 75 feet broad, with three stories and a basement,—completed in 1838, and containing a number of rooms for academical purposes. This we design to notice on a subsequent page.

Then comes a road branching off to the south, in the direction of the Hospital, Kinsley's School, and Buttermilk Falls.

Next on our right is the Chapel, and beyond

that the Philosophical and Library building, with a dome and mural towers for astronomical observations.

Our road now passes on to the brow of the hill, from which we may descend by the first foot-path to Kosciuszko's Garden. This was the favourite resort of that officer, while stationed here as an engineer, in the revolutionary war ; and it is said that the ruins of a fountain constructed by him, were discovered and repaired in 1802. It is now a romantic spot, and its beauty is increased by a little jet of water thrown up some eight or ten feet. Seats have been provided for the weary, on which are enrolled the names of many who have obtained a brief *immortality*, by visiting this garden. A strange propensity some have for thus mutilating every thing of public interest within their reach. How unfortunate for them that the material most readily adapted to their purposes is not subject to petrification !

The path continues along the bank of the river, passing a battery of considerable size, the walls and embankments of which, are pretty well preserved. We may here ascend to the plain and walk through the ruins of Fort Clinton to Kosciuszko's Monument, (a place by all means to be visited,) or retain our former path, the appearance of which is very

inviting. By this we come to Gee's Point, a projection at the very bend of the river, on which are the ruins of a small battery. This was important for the defence of a huge iron chain, more than 1400 feet long, that was extended across the river in 1780, to the bluff on the opposite side, called Constitution Island.* The design was to prevent the enemy's ships from passing above this point, but, we believe, there is no mention of their attempting to force their way beyond it.—By looking up the hill we may see to good advantage the monument, which has a very conspicuous position.

In turning from this point, the path leads us along the bank to the steamboat landing, but we shall find a branch from it going up the hill, towards the hotel. Following this, we must take another opportunity to go round to Fort Clinton, survey the works that exist there, and visit the monument. It bears simply the name KOSCIUSZKO on one side, and on the other "*Erected by the corps of Cadets, 1828.*" A brief sketch of this hero's life, we shall give on another page. The monument and the walks around were completed in 1829, at the expense of about \$5000.

* This island, which contains some ruins of interest, is easily visited by means of the ferry boats.

A pleasant road passes through Camp Town, but there is nothing particularly attractive in the appearance of the village. It is inhabited chiefly by private soldiers, and by laborers connected with the Academy. It contains the barracks of the musicians and soldiers, the magazine, a number of mechanics' shops, and the cavalry stables. The number of persons residing on the post is nine or ten hundred.

CHAPTER III.

AMUSEMENTS—MILITARY DISPLAY—MUSIC—DANCING
—STRIKING TENTS, &c.

THE stranger at West Point will find it pleasant to witness such military displays as are made from time to time, to visit some of the public buildings, and to see other places in the vicinity of the Academy worthy of notice either for their own sake, or for associations connected with them.

The daily morning parade at 8 A. M., during the encampment, and the evening pa-

rade at sunset, are ceremonies in which the whole corps of Cadets participate. The morning parade is followed by the guard mounting, and beside these exercises, there are daily drills in artillery, infantry or cavalry tactics, occurring at various hours. Occasionally the day is devoted to a review of the Cadets in the presence of strangers of military rank.

In the evening, three times a week, the excellent band connected with the corps, are stationed on the plain to play for the benefit of all who choose to listen. The music is of the first order, and is well regarded as one of the chief attractions of the place. In the winter concerts are sometimes given by a full orchestra.

The Cadets have dancing parties in the halls of the academy frequently during the summer, to which very general invitations are given. It has also been customary for them to have one or two balls during the encampment, which have been managed in the finest style.

Sometimes very fine displays of rockets and other fire works, prepared by the Cadets, may be seen in the evening.

Another common amusement of the Cadets for the evening, which attracts much attention, is the *stag dance*, performed in the open air. Large numbers of candles are placed on the

ground, in two rows, several feet apart. The space between is occupied by the dancers, who move to the sound of fife and drum, or of the violin, in regular time, but with every variety of posture. The ludicrous positions assumed, and the enthusiasm manifested in the sport attract crowds of spectators, who are greatly diverted with the entertainment. At the sound of the tattoo, the lights are suddenly extinguished, and in a few moments the place is completely deserted.

The ceremony of striking the tents at the close of the encampment, in the latter part of August, is one looked forward to with interest, as a sight well worth seeing.

The Cadets have no literary exhibitions, nor is there at present among them any literary society for improvement in debate and composition.

Other sights of interest will be mentioned in order. The library is open throughout the day. Access to the philosophical, astronomical and painting rooms, as a general thing, can be obtained only by application to the Professors, in whose department they belong, either directly or by means of some officer.

The *post office* is in the first story of the north barrack, in the end nearest the hotel.

CHAPTER IV.

THE LIBRARY.

THE entrance to the Library is by the east door of the Philosophical Building. The hall has its ceiling beautifully ornamented with architectural designs, and on its walls are suspended full length portraits of Jefferson and Madison, by Sully. Over a recess designed for the Librarian's desk is placed a bust of Washington. The stained windows add to the beauty of the room, and the whole appearance of the structure reflects much credit upon the skilful architect who designed the building.

The Library is open from 8 to 12 A. M. and from 1 P. M. until sundown, under the charge of the librarian and his assistant. Only the members of the Institution and officers residing at the post, are allowed to take books from the Library, but citizens have access to it, at the regular hours, with liberty to examine such books as they please. Cadets are allowed on Saturday afternoons to take any books they

may have been reading during the week, to be returned on the following Monday ; at other times they may have a single volume of any work calculated to aid them in their studies.

The Board of Visitors in 1833 speak thus : " The library of the academy contains a very valuable collection of works, adapted to the peculiar objects of the institution. It is rich in works on military science, and on civil engineering, and contains a valuable series of military history, and the best geographical and topographical maps of the state of Europe to illustrate this important study. It is true that in works on polite literature it is as yet rather deficient, although the selection has been very judicious ; but however desirable it may be to augment the number of volumes on miscellaneous subjects, the real object of the institution must be kept steadily in view, and it will continue to be the duty of the Superintendent to purchase, in preference to all others, books relating to the sciences taught in this academy, and to supply the necessary works on architecture, chemistry, geology, mineralogy and moral science."

Of the present character of the library, the following table will convey some idea.

	Vols.	Dup.
There are on Military Engi- neering - -	2327	2090
Artillery and Pyrotechny	508	346
Military Art - -	692	149
Military History, Memoirs, Campaigns, &c. -	876	94
Civil Engineering - -	638	36
Mathematics - -	969	322
Natural Philosophy & Navi- gation - -	835	134
Chemistry, Mineralogy, Geol- ogy, Natural History & the Arts, Medicine, &c.	1645	95
Geography, Topography, &c.	475	53
History, Biography, Memoirs, Travels, &c. -	2518	190
Miscellaneous Literature	3081	145
<hr/>		
Total	14,564	3654
Volumes not duplicated	10,910	

The great number of the duplicates is owing chiefly to 6 or 7 hundred copies of a Treatise on the Science of War, amounting to some 2000 volumes.

CHAPTER V.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL ROOMS.

THE stone building containing these rooms and the library, is of Gothic architecture, 150 feet by 60, with two stories, and three towers. It has been erected recently, and has been in use since 1843. The philosophical apparatus is arranged in cases around a lecture room, and its splendor and perfection are displayed to excellent advantage. It contains all the instruments most necessary for the use of the instructor in experimental philosophy, and numerous experiments are made before the classes.

The building is particularly adapted to astronomical observations, being constructed on the most approved plan for an observatory. The central tower is covered with a dome, weighing four tons, and revolving on four cannon balls. The motion is easily given to it, and the observer is thereby enabled to obtain an opening to any quarter of the heavens. The telescope is supported on a stone pillar firmly planted in the ground, and unconnected with the building—this arrangement being ne-

cessary to ensure its perfect stability. By means of clock work, a revolving motion is given to the instrument, in such a way that any object may be constantly kept within the field of vision.

The tower on the north-west corner contains a meridional telescope of superior quality ; and the corresponding tower has just been furnished with a transit instrument, of perfect workmanship, manufactured in Germany expressly for this institution.

These departments of philosophy and astronomy are under the charge of Prof. Bartlett, who visited Europe some years since, in order to procure instruments, and, by visiting all the great observatories, to ascertain the most desirable arrangements, and the best method of observing. The results of his journey are seen in the selection of apparatus, in the present management of his department, and in the designing of the transit instrument, which was constructed in conformity with a plan made by him, combining the most recent and valuable improvements.

CHAPTER VI.

THE CHAPEL.

THIS building, devoted to religious purposes, stands between the Library and the Academy. It was commenced in 1835, and completed the same or the next year. It is 50 feet front, 70 feet deep, and 24 feet high, and affords accommodation, for about five hundred persons. The service is usually conducted under the form of the Episcopal church, but the pulpit has been opened for clergymen of other denominations. The chaplain is the Rev. Mr. Parks, who graduated at the Academy in 1826, and is now Professor of Ethics. On Sabbath morning the officers appear at church in full uniform, and the Cadets are all required to be present, except those detailed for the guard. In the afternoon attendance is voluntary. No regular service is held during the week.

The Chapel contains an organ, and is decorated with a fine painting by Mr. Wier, whose reputation throughout the country has been crowned by the exhibition of "the Embarka-

tion of the Pilgrims at Delft Haven."* The design is supposed to be in illustration of the motto, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." A female figure, personifying peace, with an olive branch in one hand and a Bible in the other, is represented as looking towards the sun of righteousness, just risen in the east. A Roman warrior, on the other side, a representative of war, has laid by his implements of battle as if the time had come, when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." He is saddened by the idea, and is hardly reconciled to the sacrifice required of him. Between these two is an altar, or a tablet, supporting part of a globe on which our country is marked out, while above an eagle is hovering with an olive and arrows. The sky is set with stars, and the star-spangled banner is thrown down near the feet of the Roman. The coloring, the drapery, and the light are admirable, and the whole picture attracts much attention.

* This painting, representing the Pilgrims leaving their temporary home to seek a new country, and plant here "a church without a bishop, a state without a king," was executed by order of Congress, and is now placed in the Capitol at Washington.

CHAPTER VII.

THE ACADEMY—ENGINEERING HALL—MINERAL CABINET—PAINTING AND SCULPTURE GALLERIES.

THE Academy is a fine stone building, 275 feet by 75, containing three stories, beside the basement, which is used for a chemical laboratory.

The first story contains a large room used for a riding hall and for military exercises during the winter. The apartment at the north end is occupied as a fencing hall, and the corresponding one at the other end is the court room. In the second story are a number of recitation rooms, the Quarter-master's and Treasurer's offices, and the Engineering room. The latter, an apartment 75 by 22, is furnished with numerous models to illustrate the important branches of architecture, fortification, and civil engineering. Most conspicuous in the room are two large models of English manufacture, one of which represents a perfect fortification in all its minutiae, displaying the proper construction of the walls, and the means of protecting the various avenues of approach.

The other represents the progress of a successful attack upon a fortification. The advancing army, in miniature, are represented as having passed barrier after barrier, driving the besieged before them. In one place they have made a breach in the walls by the explosion of a mine, and in another they have raised a mound to protect themselves in their advance. The besieged have retreated to their last barrier, and are making preparations, in case that should be taken, to retreat to the buildings of the town, part of which is in ruins. As their last resort they are fortifying a church, which has already suffered some injury. These models, interesting simply as curiosities, must be of great importance in illustrating the nature and defence of fortifications.

In this room also are plaster models of some of the most celebrated Grecian temples, restored to their original beauty. These were brought from Paris, and are admirable representations of some of the finest buildings the world ever saw, which even in their ruins have received universal admiration. Among them are the Propylæa and the Parthenon, of Athens, the Hypæthral Temple, and "the Lantern of Demosthenes."

There are also models of bridges, canal locks, steam engines, water wheels, arches and other

apparatus designed to exemplify subjects connected with engineering. The room is under the charge of Mr. Mahan, Professor of Civil and Military Engineering, assisted by Lieutenants Wright, Newton, and Rosecrans.

The room above the Engineering hall, is devoted to the Mineralogical Cabinet, a well selected and well arranged collection of the most important specimens of native and foreign minerals, embracing some of considerable value. This department, as also that of chemistry, is under the charge of Professor Bailey, aided by Lieutenant Kendrick.

Corresponding to this room, at the opposite end of the building, is the Drawing hall, lighted from above, and supplied with every necessary convenience for drawing and painting. The members of the second and third classes usually devote two hours daily to these pursuits, and many of them make great proficiency. The panels of the room are decorated with a series of paintings by Mr. Wier, illustrating the effects of light and shade.

Opening into the hall are two spacious galleries, one for painting and the other for sculpture. The former contains a few pieces from foreign artists, and some engravings, designed as lessons to be copied : but it is intended that the walls shall be chiefly covered with the best

of the paintings produced by the Cadets. Each year the teacher selects such as he deems most worthy of preservation, and allows the Cadets to retain the remainder. A stimulus to exertion is thus held out to them, and at the same time the Academy reaps some immediate benefit from their labors. A large number of paintings has already been collected, and their appearance would do credit to more advanced artists.

The sculpture gallery contains many pieces that are interesting as copies of famous statues. It is well supplied with models of the various parts of the human figure, and cannot fail to be of advantage in aiding the studies of the Cadets.

This department is under the care of Mr. Wier, who is assisted by Lieut. R. S. Smith.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE HOSPITAL.

“THE Hospital is a stone edifice, located near the bank of the Hudson river, beautifully shaded with the sugar maple on the east, and

near the base of the mountain on the west; commanding an interesting view of the river, and securing always a free circulation of pure air. This building contains in its basement story eight rooms of convenient size for the accommodation of the nurses, matrons, domestics, kitchens, &c. Immediately above these rooms are eight large, convenient and airy chambers for the sick, with a portico in front, furnishing a pleasant promenade, in full view of the river, for convalescent patients. Connected with this building, one at each end, are two buildings of similar size, one story higher than the hospital, for the accommodation of the surgeon and assistant surgeon. The whole building is convenient and appropriate.”*

CHAPTER IX.

THE CEMETERY.

THE Cemetery has a retired and beautiful situation on the bank of the river, about a mile above the hotel. It seems fitting that solitude

* Report of Visitors, 1841.

should dwell around the abodes of the dead, and that the hum of busy life should be hushed in the vicinity of the tomb. Here sleep but few Cadets, yet those few have won the esteem of their classmates, and marble memorials tell us of their virtues. Their work was early done—night wrapped them in its shrouded gloom, ere life's morning had fairly dawned upon them.

We notice here a beautiful column in memory of Lt. Col. Alexander R. Thompson—a victim in the Florida war. The delicate sculpture, particularly, attracts our attention. Another monument, castle-like in form, deserves notice. It is known as the Cadets' Monument, and was erected in memory of V. M. Lowe, in 1817. The names of others are inscribed on the sides, and on its summit are placed various military emblems, beautifully wrought out.

The location of this cemetery is well chosen—a beautiful spot it is,—and the stranger cannot fail to be interested in visiting it. The ground in its vicinity was used as a burial place during the Revolution, but the present arrangements are of modern date.

CHAPTER X.

THE ARTILLERY LABORATORY—THE LARGE CHAIN,
AND OTHER RELICS.

THE plan and arrangement of this structure are such as to excite our curiosity. The towers are designed for workshops, and the space enclosed by the walls for the storage of various kinds of ordnance.

Near the centre of the space we see the remnants of the celebrated iron chain that was stretched across the river during the revolution to obstruct the passage of the enemy's ships. Thacher's Military Journal for 1780, says, "As additional security an iron chain of immense strength is thrown across at the short bend of the river, and fixed to huge blocks on each shore, and under the fire of batteries on both sides of the river. The links of this chain are about twelve inches wide, and eighteen long, the bars about two inches square. It is buoyed up by very large logs, of about sixteen feet long, pointed at the ends, to lessen their opposition to the force of the current at flood and ebb tide. The logs are placed at short distances

from each other, the chain carried over them, and made fast to each by staples. There are also a number of anchors dropped at proper distances, with cables made fast to the chain, to give it greater stability."

This chain "was made at Sterling [near West Point] in March and April, 1788, by the late Peter Townsend, Esq. It was contracted for and its making superintended by Timothy Pickering, Esq. The iron of this chain was made from equal parts of Sterling and Long Mine ores. The weight of each link was from 140 to 150 pounds, and the whole was made and delivered in six weeks."*

These links surround another relic, a cannon, by the premature discharge of which in 1817, Cadet Lowe was killed. To his memory has been erected the beautiful monument which was noticed in the Cemetery. Very few accidents of a serious nature have happened in this Institution, and but one other, it is said, has proved fatal.

We find here several trophies, worthy of attention; among others, two brass cannons, of British manufacture, marked *GR.* and *W. BOWEN FECIT, 1755.* On these are engraved military emblems and this inscription:

* Geological Reports of New York, No. 275.

“TAKEN
FROM THE BRITISH ARMY
AND PRESENTED BY ORDER OF
THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED
TO MAJOR GENERAL GREENE
AS A MONUMENT OF
THEIR HIGH SENSE OF
THE WISDOM FORTITUDE AND MILITARY TALENTS,
WHICH DISTINGUISHED HIS COMMAND
IN THE SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT
AND OF
THE EMINENT SERVICES
WHICH
AMIDST COMPLICATED DANGERS AND DIFFI-
CULTIES HE PERFORMED FOR
HIS COUNTRY
OCTOBER 17, 1777.

Also a number of brass mortars are visible, “*Surrendered by the Convention of Saratoga, Oct. 17, 1777 ;*” a memorable occasion, when Burgoyne surrendered his army of 5752 men, with their weapons.

Also a large brass mortar “*Taken at the Storm of Stony Point, July 15, 1779 ;*” when the fort at that place was recaptured by the Americans under Wayne.

CHAPTER XI.

FORT PUTNAM—VIEW—QUOTATION FROM SCOTT.

THE ascent of Mount Independence has heretofore been tedious, but by means of carriages, which can now go to the very summit, it may be accomplished with little difficulty, and no one should omit visiting so interesting a place as Fort Putnam. One way is to go through the west gate, and immediately turn into a road at the left, which joins the one leading to the entrance. Another road, constructed in the spring of 1844, by Major Delafield, comes to the plain in the vicinity of the Mess Hall.

The fort is walled with stone on every side, so as to be impregnable. Its elevation is about five hundred feet from the river, and about three hundred and forty from the plain. The wall varies in height from ten to thirty feet, being greatest on the south side, and on the west built upon a steep precipice. The original fortification was commenced in 1778; it was partly rebuilt in 1794, but not completed; and even in its half finished state, it has been mutilated by the grasping hand of avarice, to

furnish materials for building. This indeed was before it became the property of the United States, and we know not but the owner was justified in appropriating the relics as private property. But there was blame somewhere, and we cannot but regret that such a monument of olden time should have been so little cherished. The fort bears the name of General Putnam, a distinguished officer of the revolution, and one who had much to do in the fortification of West Point.

The mortar used in laying the walls seems to have been deficient in sand, and the consequence is that the excess of lime, soaked out by the rain, has whitewashed the stones, and given them the appearance of lime-stone, rather than of granite. Within the fort, six casemates, or arched cells, remain nearly entire, one of them being composed of three chambers ; and the ruins or unfinished foundations of seven more are discernible. The arches of these are of brick, made bomb proof and covered over with a layer of turf, called the *terre-pleine*. Some of the casemates are furnished with chimneys, and others seem to have been designed for store-houses. A number have internal communications, and nearly all, a passage through the outer wall for ventilation. The external wall was originally some feet

higher than at present, with embrasures or openings for the cannon, which were to be placed on the *terre-pleine*.

The position occupied by this fortification is considered in some respects a favorable one. It commands an extensive view of the river both above and below the Point, and of all the works on the plain ; yet as a strong-hold it has lost much of its importance, and it is quite doubtful whether it will ever be rebuilt.

But the prospect is beautiful beyond description. A bird's eye view of the plain displays the white tents of the cadets finely contrasted with the gloomy savins that stand like sentinels in their rear. Our country's flag, spreading its folds to the breeze, seems to proffer protection and peace. The opposite bank of the river is dotted with numerous country seats, not without interest in the history of the place, and just below the pleasant village of Cold Spring, West Point foundery, like a mimic volcano, pours forth its dense clouds of smoke. The tranquil surface of the noble Hudson, the graceful sloops that deck its waters, the frowning summit of Crow's Nest, casting its dark shadow on the opposing bank, the dense foliage on every hill, and the outlines of distant mountains, unite to give attractions to the spot almost unrivalled,—while the solitude of the

place, the warlike aspect of the ruins, and the redoubts nearer the river, cannot fail to recall the history of the past.

From this position the attention is naturally directed to the Academy itself. No one can reflect without deep interest on the "situation and character of this nursery of military talent, this school of tactics, and prolific fountain of future glory and security. Standing on a commanding elevation in the centre of a panorama of mountains, no situation could be better calculated for all the purposes of abstract study. The rocks around it seem to form an eternal barrier against the intrusion of distracting temptations;—the mountain air is propitious to bodily health;—the unbroken calm which perpetually reigns, induces the mind to apply to those resources from necessity, which from inclination alone, it might less frequently place in requisition;—and every spot is rendered sacred by association with times and circumstances which 'tried men's souls,' and which now live only in memory, or rather in history."* And while the monuments of the glorious struggle of our forefathers are crumbling to ruins, we may well apply these words of Scott:—

* Hudson River Portfolio.

“So thou, fair city! disarray’d
Of battled wall, and rampart’s aid,
As stately seem’st, but lovelier far
Than in that panoply of war.
Nor deem that from thy fenceless throne
Strength and security are flown ;
Still, as of yore, the queen of the north !
Still canst thou send thy children forth.
Ne’er readier at alarm-bell’s call
Thy burghers rose to man thy wall,
Than now, in danger, shall be thine,
Thy dauntless voluntary line ;
For fosse and turret proud to stand,
Their breasts the bulwark of the land.
Thy thousands, train’d to martial toil,
Full red would stain their native soil,
Ere from thy mural crown there fell
The slightest knosp, or pinnacle.”

Marmion. Introduction to Canto V.

CHAPTER XII.

CROW'S NEST.

VERY few persons mount to the top of Crow's Nest,* although those who do are well paid for their labor. The ascent, which must be performed chiefly on foot, is extremely difficult, and should hardly be attempted without the aid of one who knows the road. A direction often given to those enquiring the path, is, "if you lose your way, go directly up the side of the mountain."

The view from the summit embraces an extent of more than thirty miles up and down the river, besides much of the country on either side of it. Any attempt at describing this scenery would be useless. It must be seen—felt and realized. But we think that in the descent of the east side of the mountain, through

* By the accurate calculations of Professor Church, the following elevations from high water-mark are determined:

Height of the plain,	-	-	-	-	-	157 feet.
Fort Putnam,	-	-	-	-	-	495
Redoubt hill, (in the rear of Fort Putnam)	-					818
Crow's Nest,	-	-	-	-	-	1394

a dark ravine, late in the afternoon, these lines from Scott are by no means inappropriate.

“The western waves of ebbing day
Roll’d o’er the glen their level way;
Each purple peak, each flinty spire,
Was bathed in floods of living fire,
But not a setting beam could glow
Within the dark ravines below,
Where twined the path in shadow hid,
Round many a rocky pyramid,
Shooting abruptly from the dell
Its thunder-splinter’d pinnacle;
Round many an insulated mass,
The native bulwarks of the pass,
Huge as the tower which builders vain
Presumptuous piled on Shinar’s plain.
The rocky summits, split and rent,
Form’d turret, dome, or battlement,
Or seem’d fantastically set
With cupola or minaret,
Wild crests as pagod ever deck’d,
Or mosque of eastern architect.
Nor were these earth-born castles bare,
Nor lack’d they many a banner fair;
For, from their shiver’d brows display’d,
Far o’er the unfathomable glade,
All twinkling with the dewdrops sheen,
The brier rose fell in streamers green,
And creeping shrubs, of thousand dyes,
Waved in the west wind’s summer sighs.”

Lady of the Lake. Canto I. 11.

CHAPTER XIII.

KINSLEY'S CLASSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL.

THIS school is situated about half a mile from the Barracks on a height that overlooks the road leading to Buttermilk Falls. Mr. Z. J. D. Kinsley, a graduate of the Military Academy, who was formerly for a number of years an instructor in that Institution, is the proprietor and principal. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches of a thorough English education ; a complete system of mathematics ; the Latin, Greek and French languages ; and opportunity is also afforded for instruction in vocal and instrumental music and in drawing. Particular pains are taken with such pupils as are to enter the Military Academy ; and though the institutions are entirely distinct, there are advantages attending a preparatory instruction in the vicinity of the Academy, and under a teacher who is familiar with the system there carried out. Mr. Kinsley is assisted by graduates of Yale and Geneva Colleges, and opportunities are afforded to the pupil of preparing for a business life, or of commen-

cing and prosecuting his studies on the plan which may afterwards be followed in a university.

“The regulations for the internal discipline and police of the school will be strict and at the same time parental. No pupil of vicious habits will be permitted to remain in the school a single day; and when dismissed for such cause he will forfeit all the money paid at his entrance. As a condition of admission, every pupil will be required to pledge himself to abstain from the use of tobacco and all intoxicating drinks, and from visiting places where intoxicating drinks are sold.”*

The academic year consists of two terms of five months each; the winter term commencing on the 1st of November, and the summer term on the 1st of May. The months of April and October are devoted to vacations.

EXPENSES.

“For board, tuition, lodging, lights, washing, and fuel, per term, for pupils under ten years of age, - - - - -							\$ 100
Over 10 years and under 16, - - - - -							125
Over 16 years, - - - - -							150
Pupils entering under 10, and remaining 4 years in the School, for the whole period, per term, - - - - -							100

* Circular of the school.

Payments to be made for the term in advance in all cases.

Books, stationery, and clothing can be furnished on reasonable terms, at the expense of the pupil." *

In the following branches the charges are extra :

" Spanish Language, - - -	per qr.	\$ 10
Drawing in Human Figure and Land- scape, - - - - -	"	15
Music on the flute, guitar, violin, and piano, - - - - -	"	15
Vocal music, - - - - -	per term,	5
Military Exercises, including use of muskets, accoutrements, and am- munition, - - - - -	"	5"*

" Although it is not the design of the school to provide a military education, the pupils will be regularly organised as a company ; and they will be required to perform such military duties and exercises as contribute to discipline, to health, and to an easy and graceful carriage." The uniform adopted consists of a blue roundabout with gilt figured buttons, and white pantaloons for summer, and blue pantaloons with a black stripe of velvet down the outer seams, for winter. Each scholar is supplied with a musket and accoutrements, and is required to become familiar with the various duties and manœuvres of a soldier.

* Circular of the school.

“Monthly reports exhibiting the scholarship and behavior of every pupil will be sent to his parent or guardian, in which he will be required to write at least one page, to show his improvement in penmanship, spelling and composition. He may avail himself of this opportunity to bring before his parent or guardian any grievances he may have, or to make any explanations respecting his delinquencies; all complaints, from whatever source they may come, not thus made through the regular channel, will receive no attention from the Principal of the school.”

There is an examination of the pupils on the last three days of every month, and on the last four days of the term. These are public, and the school is constantly open to those strangers who wish to make farther inquiries, or to witness the system of instruction.

The following report of the visiting board at the March examination is from the National Intelligencer.

“A careful examination of the system of instruction and discipline in Mr. Kinsley’s School at West Point enables us to express great confidence in the fidelity with which he devotes himself to the education of his pupils. The different departments are filled by able instructors, the situation is remarkably conducive to

health and muscular development, and the occasional drill has a still farther tendency to give a firm tone to the physical system of the pupil, and to form him to a manly and graceful deportment.

“The contiguity of the Military Academy enables Mr. Kinsley to secure the services of accomplished masters in modern languages, music, and drawing, and the spiritual interests of his pupils appear to form the object of an attention at once earnest and judicious.

“Some of us having been present during most of the examination which has just closed, we are able to state that the practical results were such as might be anticipated from so good a system, and that the exhibition of the classes in all the departments of instruction was highly creditable to themselves and their instructors.

J. PROUDFIT, D. D.

Professor of Languages, Rutger's College.

CHARLES DAVIES, LL. D.

Major United States Army.

A. E. CHURCH, A. M.

Professor of Mathematics U. S. M. A.

WEST POINT, (N. Y.) APRIL 1, 1844.”

The situation of this establishment is an interesting one, being the locality of a block house used in the revolution, and overlooked

by the ruins of two fortifications on the hills in the rear. A play ground adjoining affords the means of vigorous exercise, and the place is found to be uniformly healthy.

CHAPTER XIV.

BUTTERMILK FALLS.

A PLEASANT excursion may be made to Buttermilk Falls, a mile and a half below the Academy. A small stream rushes down from the mountains, with considerable velocity, and makes a beautiful appearance, especially when swollen by the rains, by its entrance into the river. Within less than a hundred yards, it descends in a succession of cascades a hundred feet, spread out in sheets of milk white foam, over sloping beds of granite. Rough paths and foot bridges are so constructed that a person can pass with facility over the rocks, and across the foaming stream. During most of the summer, however, the little water which would naturally fall over the rocks, is drawn

off for other purposes, and the inducements to visit the place are lessened. The flour mill near by is worth noticing from the fact that a very small supply of water is used three times under the same roof upon as many overshot wheels. The united diameters of these three wheels amount to ninety-three feet, and sufficient power is obtained to keep the mill in full operation. The building is so situated that vessels find ample depth of water to come to the side of it, and receive or discharge their loads.

The road leading through the village of Buttermilk Falls, extends to the ruins of forts Montgomery and Clinton, four miles beyond. A part of this road has recently been much improved at private expense, but the remainder is quite indifferent, and as a matter of curiosity there is little reason for visiting the ruins.

A fine elevation, called Bear Mountain, overlooks the village, and the view from the summit is said to be enchanting. The ascent is somewhat arduous, but it may be accomplished even on horseback.

CHAPTER XV.

COLD SPRING—WEST POINT FOUNDRY.

AT the wharf ferry boats are stationed to convey passengers from West Point to Cold Spring, and the visitor must make an excursion to the other side of the river to see the whole beauty of this side. The village of Cold Spring has a pleasant situation, on a sloping bank of the river, and contains five churches and 1200 inhabitants. The summer residence of G. P. Morris, Esq., one of the Editors of the N. Y. Mirror, stands a little north of the village, at the base of a frowning summit called Bull's Hill.

The West Point foundry, as it is called, is situated at the side of a cove below the village. About four hundred men are employed in the various duties connected with the establishment. Many castings of immense weight have been made here, and the collection of patterns is very valuable. "There are attached to the foundry, 3 air furnaces and 3 cupolas. In the smith's shop there is 1 trip hammer of 7 tons weight, and two tilt hammers—one of a

thousand and the other of 500 pounds. The machine shop contains 29 turning lathes, and 3 planing machines for iron.”*

The drive from Cold Spring to the Beverly House, four or five miles distant, is delightful. The views of West Point, of Crow’s Nest, and of the river, are among the finest seen from any quarter. The road passes several fine country seats, and among others the De Rham house, formerly known as the Highland School. In the vicinity of this building is a romantic and picturesque valley, with a waterfall and a small pond, called the Indian fall. It may be visited from the road, but the access to it from West Point is easier by means of the ferry boats.

CHAPTER XVI.

BEVERLY HOUSE—VIEW FROM SUGAR LOAF.

The residence of Mr. Thomas B. Arden, on the east side of the river, two miles below

* Haskel’s Gazetteer.

West Point, is known as the Beverly House, and has some celebrity as the head quarters of various officers during the war. It was formerly owned by Colonel Beverly Robinson, a native of Scotland, who was induced to espouse the cause of the king, and in consequence thereof lost his large property in this vicinity.

His spacious mansion, becoming the property of the State by confiscation, was used at one period as an Hospital, and at other times was occupied by Putnam, Parsons, and Arnold, while in command of the West Point garrison. The present proprietor has filled one room with antique furniture, restoring to it as far as possible its former appearance, and he is often visited by strangers who have a curiosity to see the place.

The Rev. Dr. Dwight, afterwards President of Yale College, was stationed here in 1778 as chaplain. From a letter of his, written at that time, are quoted the following descriptions of scenery, as true to nature now as then.

“Yesterday afternoon, in company with Major Humphreys I went up to the summit of Sugar Loaf: a mountain near Colonel Robinson’s house. We ascended it with some difficulty, from the steepness of the acclivity, and from the loose stones, which frequently sliding from under our feet, exposed us to imminent hazard of falling. From the summit we were

presented with an extensive, and interesting prospect, comprising the objects, which I have heretofore mentioned, and many others which I had never seen. The point of view was remarkably happy ; the mountain being so situated, as to bring within our reach the greatest number of objects in the surrounding region, and to exhibit them to the highest advantage. What is almost a singularity, there was not a cheerful object within our horizon. Every thing which we beheld, was majestic, solemn, wild and melancholy.

“ The Northern division of our prospect was almost entirely bounded by two great mountains, named Butterhill and Breakneck ; the former on the West, the latter on the East side of the Hudson. Both abut so directly upon the river, that their rude lofty cliffs form a part of its banks. These mountains ascend at the distance of, perhaps, six miles from the spot where we surveyed them, and extend Northward to the valley of Fishkill.

“ From Breakneck stretches a range of inferior magnitude, at the distance of half a mile, one, and two miles from the Eastern shore of the Hudson. The ground between them and the river, being generally level, and capable of cultivation. It contains a small number of other houses, besides that of Col. Robinson.

Of this range Sugar Loaf is the termination, its Southern limit being the river.

“Still Eastward of this range ascend others, terminating also on the Hudson. The Southernmost, which is in sight on the Eastern side, and indeed the Southernmost of the whole cluster, is Anthony’s nose; a noble bluff, whose cliffs rise almost perpendicularly from the water’s edge to the height of perhaps 1500 feet, with a sublimity, which I believe is not often rivalled.

“On the Western side runs a rude range of mountains, commencing at Butter Hill, and terminating, to the eye, at a point, opposite to Anthony’s Nose. The three loftiest summits in the range are the Crow’s Nest, a fine sharp cone; Bear Hill; and the Donderbarrak, or Thunder Hill. At the foot of these commences a plain, of no great breadth; if I may be permitted to call that a plain, which, while it approaches generally towards a level surface, is undulating, rocky and wild, throughout a great part of its extent. This tract reaches northward to West Point; and Southward near to Anthony’s Nose. Directly North, the Hudson, here a mile in breadth, and twice as wide higher up, is seen descending from a great distance, and making its way between the magnificent cliffs of the two great mountains, Butter Hill and Breakneck. The grandeur of

this scene defies description. Through the opening here called the Wey-gat, or Wind-gate, because the wind often blows through it with great violence, is visible the cultivated country at New-Windsor, throughout a considerable extent. Beyond this, at the distance of about forty miles, rise the Cattskill mountains ; whose blue summits were at this time lost in the clouds. In this reach of the river lies an island, to the eye a mere bird's nest ; and near it were two boats, resembling in size those which children make of paper.

“South of these two mountains the river bends between West Point, and Fort Constitution, and for a short space is invisible. Thence it becomes visible again, and continues in sight, till the prospect is terminated by Anthony's Nose on the Eastern, and Bear Hill on the Western side.

“Directly opposite to us was a mill stream, which, swollen at this time by the dissolving snows, poured a large sheet of foam, white as snow, over a high ledge of rocks into the Hudson.* In other circumstances this object would have been beautiful ; now it only enhanced the general solemnity and grandeur, by filling the neighboring region with a loud sound, resembling the distant roar of the ocean.

* Buttermilk Falls.

This sound was apparently echoed by the numerous torrents, which were everywhere rushing down the mountains."

"Beneath us was a house,* deserted by its inhabitants: a family, possessed, a little while since, of all the enjoyments which this life can furnish; intelligent, refined, and amiable. It is deserted, not improbably to be seen by them no more. Whether the father acted wisely or unwisely, defensibly or indefensibly, I am not interested to inquire. Against the mother and the children, even prejudice can bring no allegation."

"Southward, at the distance of perhaps four miles, were the ruins of Fort Montgomery. Here more than one hundred of our countrymen became victims, a few months since, to the unprincipled claims of avarice and ambition. * * * Northward, at about the same distance, was West Point, where the same scenes of slaughter may not improbably be soon acted over again."

"It is a remarkable fact, that the Hudson should have found so fine and safe a bed, in a country so rough, and between banks so often formed of mountains, or high hills, and to so great an extent abutting upon it in precipices

* The Beverly House.

of a stupendous height. Yet even through the highlands its navigation is perfectly uninterrupted. * * * * There is a grandeur in the passage of this river through the highlands, unrivalled by any thing of the same nature within my knowledge. At its entrance particularly, and its exit, the mountains ascend with stupendous precipices immediately from the margin of its waters; appearing as if the chasm between them had been produced by the irresistible force of this mighty current, and the intervening barrier, at each place, had been broken down, and finally carried away into the ocean. These cliffs hang over the river, especially at its exit from the mountains, with a wild and awful sublimity, suited to the grandeur of the river itself; which, speedily after it escapes from these barriers, expands its current to the breadth of three miles, and soon after to that of four, and pours a vast stream two miles wide, and sufficiently deep to waft a seventy-four gun ship, until it is lost in the bay of New York.”*

* Dwight's Travels in New-England and New-York, vol. 3.

CHAPTER XVII.

MILITARY ACADEMY—ADMISSION—COURSE OF INSTRUCTION—EXAMINATIONS—GRADUATION—LEAVES OF ABSENCE—UNIFORM—DISCIPLINE—LIMITS—PAY—MILITARY ORGANIZATION—FIRE COMPANIES—DAILY EMPLOYMENT OF TIME.

It is thought that a somewhat minute account of the rules of the Academy, will be not only interesting as a matter of curiosity, but also useful for reference and information. The following account is chiefly an abridgement of the "Regulations for the Military Academy, by the President of the United States," published in 1839.

ADMISSION.

Candidates who have been selected by the War Department at Washington, are required to report themselves for examination to the Superintendent of the Academy between the 1st and 20th of June, annually. The only requisite attainments are the ability to read and write well, and a knowledge of the elements of arithmetic, including reduction, proportion, and fractions. The door is thus opened

to those who have enjoyed but few advantages of education, and any elevation of the standard would undoubtedly create dissatisfaction among some classes of the community.* Still a thorough mental discipline before entering the Institution, would fit a person to derive still greater advantages from his course of study.

None are admitted who are under sixteen or more than twenty-one years of age; who are less than five feet in height; or who are deformed, or in any manner unfit for military duty. Each Cadet, on his admission, is required to subscribe an engagement to serve in the army of the United States for eight years, including the four years of instruction, unless sooner discharged by the proper authority; also to observe all the regulations of the Academy and the orders of his officers, according to the rules and discipline of war. Thus he is regularly enlisted and made subject to martial law.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

The studies of the Cadets are comprised under the following heads:

* The Board of Visitors in 1840, go so far as to say, "The standard of qualification for admission, although considered low by some, is certainly so high as to preclude many who perhaps would otherwise present very strong claims for admission"!!!

- 1st. Infantry Tactics and Military Police.
- 2d. Mathematics.
- 3d. The French Language.
- 4th. Drawing.
- 5th. Natural Philosophy.
- 6th. Chemistry and Mineralogy.
- 7th. Artillery Tactics, the Science of Gunnery, and the Duties of a Military Laboratory.
- 8th. Engineering and the Science of War.
- 9th. Geography, History, and Ethics.
- 10th. The use of the sword.

Each department is under the charge of a professor or teacher, who is held responsible for the mode of instruction.

Infantry Tactics. This course conforms to the system established for the government of the army, and includes the drill of the soldier, company and battalion, the evolutions of the line, the manual exercise of light infantry and riflemen, and the police of camp and garrison. The instructor in this department is assisted by such officers as are selected for the purpose, and by the Cadets appointed to act as commissioned and non-commissioned officers. The exercises and manœuvres are taught principally in the field, and the rules of military police are exemplified in practice.

Mathematics. This course embraces algebra, geometry, trigonometry, mensuration, de-

scriptive and analytical geometry, and fluxions. The two younger classes are divided into sections of twelve or fifteen, according to the capacities of the Cadets. The first section in each class is under the immediate tuition of the professor, and the other sections under assistant professors of mathematics. The instruction is adapted to the abilities of the different divisions, the more difficult investigations of the course being reserved for the higher sections.

The French Language, embracing French grammar, accurate translations, and a correct pronunciation, is taught in sections divided according to the French merit-roll in the same manner as for mathematics.

To *Drawing* great attention is paid. The elements of the human figure; elementary studies in landscape with the pencil; shading and finishing landscape in India ink; and elements of topography with pen, pencil, India ink, and colors.

Natural and Experimental Philosophy. This course embraces mechanics, magnetism, and astronomy.

Chemistry; embracing chemical philosophy, application of chemistry to the arts, mineralogy, and geology.

Artillery; nomenclature and description of the various kinds and parts of artillery, &c.;

exercise with field pieces, &c.; manœuvres as a division of artillery; gunnery, theory and practice; pyrotechny, preparation of powder, cartridges, rockets, fire-balls, &c., &c.

Engineering; civil engineering; field fortification; permanent fortification; science of war.

History, &c. English grammar; rhetoric, geography; ancient and modern history; moral philosophy; political science.

The use of the sword; fencing, use of the small sword, &c., and sword exercise of cavalry.

The course of instruction occupies four years, those who enter at the same time constituting a class. The oldest class is called *the first*, the next the second, and so on; and each lower one advances a degree at commencement on the 1st of July. In the months of July and August the Cadets are encamped, and the instruction is exclusively military. During the remaining ten months of the academic year, instruction is given in all the courses. The daily allowance of time for the class studies, including recitations, is not less than nine, nor more than ten hours, varying somewhat with the season.

EXAMINATIONS.

An annual examination of the classes, preparatory to their advancement, commences on

the first Monday of June, at which time all the Cadets are examined by the Academic Board, (consisting of the superintendent, professors, and teachers,) in the presence of a Board of Visitors, who are army officers, designated for the purpose annually by the Secretary of War, who sometimes attends in person. Another annual examination by the Academic Board is held on the first Monday in January. The result of these examinations is the dismissal of those incompetent to go on with their studies, and the publication in the Army Register of the names of the five who appear most distinguished in each class.

A record is kept of every recitation, and weekly exhibited to the Cadets, the scale of merit varying from 3 to 0. After the June examination these are condensed into rolls displaying the comparative standing of each Cadet in his class, both in general merit, and in each study. These are published in the annual register, which also contains a *conduct-roll*, compiled from a record of all the irregularities and violations of the code of discipline, for the year preceding. Offences are classed in seven grades of criminality, bringing from 1 to 10 demerit. For example, an absence from reveille roll-call, is 3 demerit. Introducing spirituous liquors

into barracks, is 8 demerit. Disobedience of the orders of a military superior, is 8 demerit.

For each year (after the first) that a Cadet has been a member of the Institution, his offences are made to count more, by adding to the number expressing the degree of criminality of each offence, one-sixth for his second, one-third for his third, and one-half for his fourth year. When the number for the demerit of any Cadet for the year exceeds 200, he is declared deficient in conduct, and recommended to the War Department for discharge. Various punishments are also assigned for neglect of duty, and, (it is claimed,) the scrutiny of military police accomplishes all that can be expected in enforcing discipline and good order, and in restraining irregularity and vice.

GRADUATION AND PROMOTION.

No Cadet can be promoted until he has completed the course of studies pursued at the Academy, and received a diploma from the Academic Board. Those who pass a satisfactory examination after four years' study, are recommended to the Secretary of War for commissions, and become connected with the army as second lieutenants, or when there are no vacancies, as brevet second lieutenants. The rank in promotion corresponds with the stand

ing on the roll of general merit; and thus the inducement is held up to the Cadets, that their prospects of honor and rank in the army depend almost solely upon their conduct and scholarship in the Academy. After joining any particular regiment, however, they are certain of a liberal support, and of promotion as vacancies occur above them, whatever may be their qualifications and merit; unless it may be in actual war, when conspicuous bravery and talent are likely to receive a reward.

No Cadet, who leaves the Academy prematurely, whatever the cause, can receive an appointment in the army, until after the promotion of the class to which he belonged.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

During the encampment, most of the professors and teachers, with their assistants, have leave of absence from the post. The Cadets are allowed to be absent but once during their four years' course. This vacation usually comes to each class at the end of its second year, and continues through July and August. But not more than one-fourth of the whole number may be absent at any one time, and no Cadet can obtain such leave of absence whose demerit for the year exceeds 150.

UNIFORM.

The professors, &c., not in the line of the army, are required to wear a citizen's dress, with figured gilt buttons ; if commissioned officers, they wear the uniforms of their several regiments.

The Cadets have a gray cloth coattee, with standing collar, single breasted, having black silk cord, and three rows of gilt bullet buttons in front, and also upon the skirts and sleeves ; gray cloth trowsers for winter, with a black stripe an inch wide down the outer seam ; white drilling trowsers for summer ; white gloves ; a dress cap of black felt seven inches high, with a black pompon eight inches long, a leather cockade, and a gilt castle and eagle in front. A forage cap is worn when not on duty. Each Cadet must unite with his room-mate in purchasing the tables and other furniture that may be prescribed for their room. No article of clothing, furniture, or books can be sold or otherwise disposed of without permission from the superintendent.

DISCIPLINE.

The punishments to which a Cadet is liable are comprised in the three following classes :

1st. Privation of recreation ; extra tours of

guard duty ; reprimands ; arrests or confinement to his room or tent.

2d. Confinement in light prison ; confinement in dark prison.

3d. Dismission with the privilege of resigning ; public dismission.

The punishments of the first class may be inflicted by the superintendent, or with his approbation ; those of the second class may only be inflicted by virtue of the sentence of a court martial, except in cases of mutinous conduct or breach of arrest.

All disobedience and disrespectful conduct towards his teachers or officers, renders a Cadet liable to dismission. The Cadets are *forbidden* to have or to use intoxicating drinks, tobacco, or cards. The following things are prohibited under severe penalties ; all cooking in barracks or in camp ; damaging or selling public property ; absence from quarters, and visiting in study hours, and at night ; answering for another at roll call ; encouraging or provoking duels, ungentlemanly conduct ; combinations against authority ; publishing accounts of the Academy, or of transactions in the Institution ; receiving money or supplies from home ; absence from duty ; neglect of study ; disregard of the Sabbath ; profanity ; taking a newspaper without permission ; having

other dress than that prescribed ; lending accoutrements ; throwing anything from the windows and doors in barracks ; having a light burning after 10 P. M. ; running, loud talking, and scuffling in barracks ; receiving strangers in barracks in study hours.

LIMITS.

The Cadets are not allowed to pass over the road surrounding the plain of West Point, (including the side walk,) without special permission. On Saturday afternoons, and during the encampment on other days, leave can be obtained to walk upon certain parts of the public lands, including Mount Independence and Crow's Nest.

No Cadet can visit any family, except on Saturday afternoon, without a written invitation and the special permission of the superintendent ; or go to the hotel without a written permit specifying the time of the visit and the name of the persons on whom he may wish to call. No Cadet can enter any room or hall of the hotel, except the hall and drawing rooms of the first story, or when there take dinner or any other meal.

PAY AND ACCOUNTS.

The monthly allowance to each Cadet is twenty-eight dollars. About ten of these are

paid for board, and the remainder placed to his credit, or expended for clothing, books, and furniture. A monthly stoppage of two dollars is made from the pay of each Cadet, for the accumulation of a fund to be applied at the time of his promotion to the purchase of a uniform. The amount thus saved in four years is about one hundred dollars. No debt can be incurred without permission, and all the orders and charges must be entered in a book kept by the Cadet. These accounts are adjusted from time to time, but no Cadet is entitled to receive the balance due to him, until he is promoted or discharged.

MILITARY ORGANIZATION.

There are four companies, whose organization is entirely distinct from that of the four classes, forming one battalion. The "Cadet officers," as they are called, are selected from those who have been most active and soldier-like in the performance of their duties, and most exemplary in their general deportment. The captains and lieutenants are usually taken from the first class, the sergeants from the second class, and the corporals from the third class. The other Cadets fill the ranks as privates. Cadets acting as commissioned and non-commissioned officers wear certain badges

of distinction ; the captains four *chevrons* of single lace on each arm above the elbow, points up ; lieutenants, three ; sergeants, two ; corporals, two on each arm below the elbow. For a few other officers, these badges are somewhat varied.

During the summer there is a military drill every day when the weather is favourable, (Saturdays and Sundays excepted,) after 4 P. M., continuing from an hour to an hour and a half. There is a dress parade at sunset, and when in camp at 8 A. M., also ; and a parade and inspection of the battalion under arms every Sunday morning before church.

FIRE COMPANIES.

The several companies are also organized as a Fire Department, having charge of buckets, ladders, and hose, in the use of which they are occasionally drilled by the Instructors of Tactics. In case of an alarm of fire, the several companies assemble immediately, and under charge of the senior officer present, proceed with the apparatus to the fire, and exert all their energies to subdue the flames and to remove and preserve the property in danger.

DAILY EMPLOYMENT OF TIME.

“*Reveille*” at 5 A. M. in summer, and 6 in winter. Roll call immediately after. Cleaning

arms and accoutrements. Inspection of rooms thirty minutes after roll call. Study of the lessons to be recited during the morning.

At 7 A. M. the signal for breakfast. "*Troop*" and guard mounting at half-past 7. Morning parade at 8 (in camp.)

From 8 A. M. to 1 P. M. Recitation and study.

Dinner at 1. Recreation until 2.

From 2 to 4 P. M. Recitation, or study, or drawing. After four, military exercises for an hour or longer, and recreation. At sunset, evening parade. Supper immediately after. Call to quarters 30 minutes after supper. From that time till half-past nine, study. "*Tattoo*," a preparatory signal at half-past nine. Lights extinguished and inspection of rooms at the signal "*Taps*" at 10 P. M.

As the studies are not pursued during the encampment, the hours allotted to recitations and study are then devoted to recreation or military drill, and the evenings to merry making in the dancing parties and in other amusements.

The arrangements are such that, beside numerous inspections by the army "officer in charge," and the Cadet "officer of the day," there are at least four roll calls daily.

The *first* immediately after *reveille*.

The *second* immediately before breakfast.

The *third* immediately before dinner.

The *fourth* immediately before evening parade, and other roll calls for recitation and drill. If any Cadet is absent from one of these roll calls, unexcused and not on duty, the fact is immediately reported, and a careful watch kept until he re-appears.

The same systematic order prevails throughout every thing that is done. The different sections march in silence to and from their recitations under the charge of the best of their number as squad marcher. The companies also march to the Mess Hall "with slow and solemn tread," and there take their seats in regular order, preserving a constant silence.

CHAPTER XVIII.

DRESS PARADE.

As the parade occurs daily, it may be well to give some description and explanation of the form of proceeding.

At the proper time the band assembles on the regimental parade, and each company turns out under arms on its own parade for roll call and inspection. Soon after, the signal is given for the companies to march to the regimental parade, where they form in the order of battle, with the officers at their posts and the Adjutant on the right of the line. The senior officer present, usually an instructor of tactics, takes a position at a considerable distance in front, opposite the centre and facing the line. The Adjutant then orders the music, which is on his right to "beat off," when the band beginning to play march forward a few paces, then along the front of the line till they have passed the whole length, when they wheel and return to their former position, and give a salute. At this moment the flag is lowered and the evening gun fired. The roar of the cannon is echoed and re-echoed, as if each hill for miles was uttering its response to the signal, and repeating the watchword to its neighbor.

After the return of the band the Adjutant steps forward and commands—*Attention!*—*Shoulder ARMS!*—*Prepare to open ranks!*—*To the rear, open order!*—*MARCH!*—*Right—DRESS!* As these commands are given, the ranks assume a different appearance, the commissioned officers all marching forward

several paces, and the non-commissioned officers falling back in the rear. The Adjutant seeing the whole properly arranged and ordering FRONT! then marches along the front to the centre, faces to the right and passes eight or ten paces before the line of company officers, when he comes to the right about and gives the word *Present*—ARMS! When he sees this executed, the officers saluting, he faces the commanding officer, salutes, and reports "*the parade is formed.*" He then is ordered to take his post, which he does by marching around the rear of the commander, and standing on his left. The commanding officer acknowledges the salute of the line by touching his hat, and drawing his sword commands *Shoulder ARMS!* He then adds such exercises as he thinks proper, concluding with *Order ARMS!* The Adjutant being then told to receive the reports passes back to his former position in front of the line, and commands *First Sergeants, to the front and centre.* MARCH! At the first order the first sergeant of each company shoulders arms, marches two paces to the front and faces inwards. At the second command they march to the centre of the line and halt. The Adjutant then orders *Front—FACE! Report!* At the last word each in succession, beginning on the right, reports the

result of the roll call previously made on the company parade. These reports are usually in the form, "*Company A. present or accounted for,*" and so on with companies B, C, and D. Sometimes "*Two privates absent from Company A,*" is the report.

The Adjutant again commands, *First Sergeants, outward—FACE! To your posts—MARCH!* and they resume their places. The Adjutant turning to the commanding officer, salutes and gives the result of the First Sergeants' reports. He is then directed to read his orders, and facing about he announces *Attention to Orders*, and reads such general orders as may have been communicated to him. These having been read, he again faces the commanding officer, salutes, and reports that the orders are read, when on an intimation from the commander, he faces again to the line, and announces *The Parade is dismissed*.* All the Officers now return their swords, face inwards, and close on the Adjutant who takes the centre. He then gives the word *Front—FACE! Forward—MARCH!*

* A writer in Niles Register, September 1815, says, "before the parade is dismissed the companies are drawn up in an open square, and an evening prayer is delivered by the chaplain." This custom has for a long time been dispensed with, and no practice of the kind exists at present.

and they march forward with music till within six paces of the commanding officer, when they halt, and salute by raising the hand to the cap, remaining in that position while he communicates such instructions as he may have to give, or by returning the salute intimates that the ceremony is finished. As the officers disperse, the First Sergeants close the ranks of their respective companies, and march them to the company parades, where they are dismissed; the band continuing to play until the companies clear the regimental parade ground.

The morning parade, at 8 A. M., during the encampment only, is followed by the ceremony of guard mounting, and is like the evening parade, except the firing of the cannon.

CHAPTER XIX.

ARNOLD AND ANDRÉ.

The story of Arnold's treason and of André's capture is well known, but a repetition of the main points in connection with the localities of West Point, will not be out of place.

In 1780, "the American army was stationed in the strong holds of the highlands on both sides of the North River. For the defence of this river, a fortress had been built at West Point, after the loss of Fort Montgomery; and it was so strong and impregnable as to be called the Gibraltar of America. Of this post General Arnold solicited the command; and General Washington, far from suspecting any sinister views in an officer who had been uniformly zealous and active in the cause of his country, complied with the solicitation. When Arnold had become invested with the command, he carried on a negotiation with Sir Henry Clinton, by which it was agreed that Arnold should make such a disposition of his forces as would enable the British General effectually to surprise West Point. The agent employed in this negotiation was Major André, adjutant general of the British Army."*

"General Clinton now saw a prospect before him, and an opening for a successful operation which claimed his immediate and assiduous care. To get possession of West Point and its dependent posts, with their garrisons, military stores, cannon, vessels, boats, and provisions, appeared to him an object of such vast importance, that in attaining it no reasonable hazard

* Holmes' Annals.

or expense ought to be spared. In the first place it would bring under his control the navigable waters of Hudson's River, and in some degree facilitate his intercourse with the army in Canada, as well as essentially derange the communication of the Americans between the eastern and middle States. * * * * *

It would be necessary for the Americans to collect and deposit in some place large magazines of provisions and military stores. Both from its position and its strength, West Point would undoubtedly be chosen for the depot of these supplies. On this ground alone, therefore, it was an object of the greatest importance with the British commander to pursue any plan, which held out a promise to put him in possession of that post. Such an event would not only defeat the project of a combined attack, but distress both the opposing armies [the American and the French] to such a degree, by depriving them of supplies, that it would cause dissatisfaction and desertion in the American ranks, and excite a spirit of discontent if not of distrust among the French.”*

“To favor the communications, the Vulture, a British sloop of war, had been previously stationed in the North River, as near Arnold's posts as could be without exciting suspicion.

* Sparks' Life of Arnold, pages 164, 5, 6.

On the night of the 21st of September, a boat was sent from the shore to fetch Major André ; and Arnold met him at the beach, without the posts of both armies.* Their business not being finished until it was too near morning for André to return to the Vulture, Arnold, telling him he must be concealed until the next night, conducted him within one of the American posts, where he continued with him the following day. The Vulture having in the meantime changed her position, the boatmen refused to carry back André the next night ; and he could now return to New York in no other way than by land.”†

“The arrangements being agreed upon for the execution of the plot, it is understood that the day was also fixed. André was to return to New York, and the British troops, already embarked under the pretext of an expedition to the Chesapeake, were to be ready to ascend the river at a moment’s warning. The post at West Point was to be weakened by such a disposition of the troops as would leave but a small force for its defence. As soon as it should be known that the British were coming up the river, parties were to be sent out from the gar-

* This was some miles below West Point, on the same side of the river.

† Holmes’ Annals.

rison to the gorges in the hills, and other distant points, under pretence of meeting the enemy as they approached; and here they were to remain while the British troops landed and marched to the garrison through different routes in which they would meet no opposition.

“With an accurate plan of West Point and its environs, these details were easily settled. The general principle, which served as a basis of the whole manœuvre, was, that the troops should be so scattered, and divided into such small detachments, that they could not act in force, and would be obliged to surrender without any effectual resistance.”*

Arnold “informed André, that the chain which was stretched across the river from West Point to Constitution Island, forming, when perfect, an effectual bar to the passage of the river, was now no longer an impediment. He had detached a link, ostensibly to have it mended: the smiths would not return it for some days; and the two ends of the chain were held together by a fastening too weak to bear even a slight concussion.”†

But the capture of André defeated the whole plan. On his return towards New York on horseback, under an assumed name, with a

* Spark's Life of Arnold, pages 207, 8.

† Encyclopædia Americana.

passport from Arnold, while congratulating himself that he was within the limits of his own army, and that all danger was over, he was seized by a party of Americans, whose suspicions induced them to search his dress, concealed in which they found the papers given him by Arnold. These were in Arnold's handwriting, and comprised full estimates of the forces at West Point, the details of their position, and accounts of the fortifications.

Notice of the arrest of this spy was unadvisedly sent to Arnold, who received it at the very moment he was expecting the arrival of General Washington from Hartford. He hastily left the breakfast table, observing that his presence was required at West Point; and bidding his wife, who had been entirely ignorant of his treasonable designs, farewell, he rode rapidly down the bank, entered a well manned barge, which, with much precaution, he kept always ready, and persuaded the boatmen to take him several miles down the river to the Vulture. His head quarters, so summarily abandoned, were on the east side of the river, in the "Beverly House."

Washington soon arrived, and being told that Arnold had crossed the river for a short time, resolved to follow and meet him at West Point, expecting to be received with a salute.

He was surprised on landing just below the site of the present Hospital, to find that his arrival was unlooked for, and that Arnold had not been there for a day or two. On his return to the Beverly House, in the afternoon, the mystery was solved by the reception of new despatches, and measures were adopted to overtake Arnold, but he was beyond their reach.

André was captured Sept. 23d, 1780. On the 26th he was taken to the Beverly House, but crossed the same day to West Point. He was thence carried to Tappan, the American head quarters, and after examination by a board of Washington's appointment, was executed on the 2d of October. His unsuccessful request to Washington that he might die as a soldier, and not as a spy, is beautifully expressed in these lines by N. P. Willis.

“It is not the fear of death
That damps my brow,
It is not for another breath
I ask thee now ;
I can die with a lip unstirr'd
And a quiet heart—
Let but this prayer be heard
Ere I depart.

I can give up my mother's look—
My sister's kiss ;
I can think of love—yet brook
A death like this !

I can give up the young fame
I burn'd to win—
All—but the spotless name
I glory in.

Thine is the power to give,
Thine to deny,
Joy for the hour I live—
Calmness to die.
By all the brave should cherish,
By my dying breath,
I ask that I may perish
By a soldier's death !”

Some of André's remarks are thus quoted by Mr. Sparks, in the words of Major Tallmadge. “When we left West Point for Tappan, early in the morning, as we passed down the Hudson River to King's Ferry, I placed André by my side, on the after seat of the barge. I soon began to make inquiries about the expected capture of our fortress then in full view, and begged him to inform me whether he was to have taken a part in the military attack, if Arnold's plan had succeeded. He instantly replied in the affirmative, and pointed me to a table of land on the west shore,* which he said was the spot where he should have landed at the head of a select corps. He then traversed in idea the course up the mountain into the

* This must have been but a short distance below Kinsley's school.

rear of Fort Putnam, which overlooks the whole parade of West Point. And this he did with much greater exactness than I could have done; and as Arnold had so disposed of the garrison, that little or no opposition could be made by our troops, Major André supposed he should have reached that commanding eminence without difficulty. In such a case that important key of our country would have been theirs (the enemies') and the glory of so splendid an achievement would have been his. The animation with which he gave the account, I recollect, perfectly delighted me, for he seemed as if he was entering the fort sword in hand. To complete the climax, I next inquired what was to have been his reward, if he had succeeded. He replied that military glory was all he sought; and that the thanks of the king were a rich reward for such an undertaking."*

* Life of Arnold, 256, 7.

CHAPTER XX.

KOSCIUSZKO.

“Hope for a season bade the world farewell,
And freedom shrieked, when Kosciuszko fell.”

THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO was born in Poland in 1756, and educated in a military school at Warsaw. Having spent some time in France, at the expense of his prince, in the study of drawing and military science, he subsequently came to America, with letters from Franklin, to perfect himself in the art of war and national defence. He joined the American army and remained in the service of the United States until the end of the Revolution, having obtained the rank of colonel, and brigadier-general, by brevet, and enjoying the friendship of Washington, to whom he was aid-de-camp. He was the principal engineer of the northern department, during the war, and executed the works at West Point with alacrity and zeal. In common with La Fayette he shared the honor of a connection with the Society of the Cincinnati, they being the only

foreigners to whom was granted an admission to the fraternity ; and surely this distinction was merited, if the objects of the Society were "to preserve the rights and privileges of human nature for which they had fought and bled ; to promote and cherish union and honor between the respective states ; to perpetuate the remembrance of the American Revolution, as well as a cordial affection among the officers ; and to extend acts of beneficence to those officers and their families, whose situation might require assistance."

In 1786, Kosciuszko returned to his native country, and eight years after, when the Poles made a noble effort to recover their liberty and independence, became distinguished both by his skill as a general, and by his firm resistance to Russian oppression. In 1797 he revisited America, and was received with honor. For his revolutionary services Congress granted him a pension. His death, in 1817, was occasioned by a fall with his horse from a precipice in Switzerland.

CHAPTER XXI.

HISTORY OF WEST POINT.

So closely is the early history of West Point interwoven with that of the country, and so few transactions of importance have happened here, that we must say either very much or very little about it. The latter course will be pursued. Other information may be gathered from Washington's Letters, and from various biographies of military heroes.

Forts Montgomery and Clinton, six miles below West Point, were taken by the enemy, October 6, 1777, and the fort on Constitution Island, opposite West Point, being deserted by the Americans, was demolished. When, however, the British heard of the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, they retreated from their newly acquired possessions, and returned down the river. The Americans then made preparations to resume their ground, and on December 2, Gen. Washington wrote to Gen. Putnam, then in command of the Highlands to erect such works, (at some point,) as were necessary to defend and secure the river against any

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future attempts of the enemy ; directing him also to consult Gov. Clinton, Gen. Parsons, and Col. Radière. It is a matter of doubt who first suggested West Point as the most suitable place, but the earliest record is Clinton's letter to Washington, of the 20th December, recommending "that a strong fortress should be erected at West Point, opposite to Fort Constitution." In January an examination was made by several gentlemen, to ascertain the most suitable spot for the new fortifications ; and all, except Radière, the French engineer, were of opinion that West Point was the place. So strong was the opposition of Radière, that Putnam determined to consult the Legislature of New-York. A committee was appointed by this body to survey the ground, and their unanimous recommendation that West Point should be selected, was finally adopted.

The operations however went on slowly for the first month. Gov. Clinton, whom Congress had requested to superintend the erection of the fort, had more weighty duties to attend to ; Gen. Putnam was obliged to be absent in Connecticut ; and Gen. Parsons, the next in command, was quite undecided how much power was entrusted to him. "When these doubts in regard to the extent of command are considered, and also the tardy movements of the

engineer, in executing plans which he did not approve, the extreme fatigue of the service in the midst of winter, the privations and sufferings of the men, and the want of teams and other necessary aids, it is not surprising that very slow progress had been made. General McDougall took command on the 28th of March. Two days previously, Kosciuszko arrived, who had been appointed engineer in place of Radière. From that time the works were pressed forward with spirit. To the scientific skill and sedulous application of Kosciuszko, the public was mainly indebted for the construction of the military defences at West Point.” *

In April, Gen. McDougall reported that the new fort (Clinton) was nearly completed, but to protect it, there was need to guard the heights above it. Accordingly the foundations of Fort Putnam were laid, and a name given to them from the general who was so much concerned in the fortification of the place. But it was in the latter part of 1779, “that the strong works at West Point and its vicinity were chiefly constructed. Part of the time two thousand five hundred men were daily on fatigue duty.”†

August 3d, 1780, was the date of Arnold's

* Spark's Writings of Washington, vol. 5, p. 282.

† Ibid. 6, 204.

appointment to the command of West Point, and the next month revealed the enormities of his plans, frustrated by an overruling Providence. Immediately after the discovery of this plot, measures were taken for the security of the post, but no attack was made upon it.

During the war, West Point was considered the keystone of the country, and it was abundantly supplied with all the means of defence that our resources could supply. After the peace it was still regarded as a post of great importance, and on this account, was purchased by the United States.

In 1794, repairs were commenced on Fort Putnam, with a view to render it a perfect fortification, but they were suspended for want of funds. The works have since been much mutilated and deprived of their former glory.

CHAPTER XXII.

HISTORY OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY; AND ITS
PRESENT CONDITION.

OF the history of the Military Academy, we deem it necessary to give only a general outline; minute details would occupy too much space for our limits. As a summary of the approbation bestowed upon the Academy, Col. Johnson's report to Congress in 1834, says, The Committee "have shown the correctly balanced mind of Washington passing from doubt to assured conviction, upon the question of its constitutionality; the philosophic mind of Jefferson, whose biasses were ever against free constructions, relinquishing the confident opinion he had expressed in the negative upon the same question, and proposing an enlargement of the institution; the clearly discriminating mind of Madison, exerting its great powers to perpetuate the existing, and create new establishments, unshackled by a doubt of the constitutional authority of the Government, and his example imitated by his friend and successor. They have shown the

recognition by Congress of the soundness of the principle upon which these institutions are based, in the acts of 1794 and 1798; the distinct and not to be mistaken expression of the conviction of the same body, of their power, and of the expediency of exercising their power to establish a military academy, in the act of 1802; and this, too, after the projet of such an institution had been fully developed, in all its extent, in the official report of 1800, and had been two years open for their consideration, and the consideration of their constituents; and lastly, they have shown an unbroken series of legislative enactments for the support and extension of the Academy, running through a period of nearly twenty years, and the failure of the attempts which have been made to induce an opposite course of legislation. In the apprehension of the committee, it will be difficult to find, in the recorded history of the country, a question upon which public sentiment has been more fully and fairly tested, and has been more unanimous.*

Hardly had the war of the Revolution terminated, when it became a matter of discussion, how the country might be best prepared for defence, without the evils of a standing army;

* Johnson's Report, p. 9.

and after mature deliberation, Washington ventured to propose to Congress in 1793, the establishment of a school of instruction for junior officers. Some measures were taken in accordance with his advice, but the institution did not have a fixed habitation and a name until the act of March 16th, 1802, which provided for the establishment, support, and government of a Military Academy at West Point, to consist of not more than ten officers of the engineer corps, and as many cadets. The officers, however, were liable to be called away on duty at any moment. In the following year the appointment of a teacher of French, and a teacher of drawing added much to the usefulness of the school, but the Institution remained in embryo, until in measures preparatory to the war, the act of 1812 was passed, giving it life and energy. This declares "that the Military Academy shall consist of the corps of engineers, and the following professors and assistants, in addition to the teachers of French and of Drawing already provided for; viz. a professor of experimental and natural philosophy; a professor of mathematics; a professor of the art of engineering; with an assistant for each. A chaplain was also to be appointed, and required to officiate as professor of geography, ethics, and history. The number of cadets was limited

to 260 ; the pre-requisites for admission, the term of study and service, and the rate of pay and emoluments, were prescribed." *

The foundations of three new buildings were immediately laid, and from that time to the present, the Academy has been increasing in advantages, and in reputation.

The longest and perhaps the most prosperous administration of the Academy was that of Colonel Thayer from 1817 to 1833. An early graduate of the Institution, he had borne a conspicuous part in the late war, (for which he was breveted a major,) and by a visit to the military schools of France, had acquired knowledge and experience which were found useful when applied to this post. His successor, Major De Russy, remained five years, and in 1838 was succeeded by Major Delafield, who still discharges the duties of the station.

During the presidential term of Mr. Adams, Mr. Barbour, then Secretary of War, introduced the plan of having annually a Board of citizens, convened from every part of the United States, who should spend at least a fortnight in June, in attendance upon the examination, and in a thorough inspection of the Academy. They were "requested to report upon the actual state and progress of the Institution, and to make

* Johnson's Report, p. 7.

such suggestions for its improvement as they might deem necessary." This system was continued until the year 1843, when, on account of the expense, it was so modified that a board of officers alone assembled at the Academy. The reports of these Boards abound in commendations, and in general express the highest degree of satisfaction and their cordial approval of the Institution; and though much allowance is to be made for the very flattering circumstances in which the visitors were placed, and for the brief acquaintance they had with the Academy, it is not to be presumed that men of such intelligence and discernment as they generally were, would have bestowed such repeated praise were there insufficient grounds for it. They offered also many suggestions, some of which seem to have been adopted, while others are yet under consideration. Gov. Cass, in 1835, says, "these annual examinations by a body of highly respectable citizens, called from various parts of the country, are not only useful as checks upon any improper tendency, to which all public establishments are more or less liable, but they are satisfactory, when they bear testimony to the value of the system, and to the correctness of its administration." *

* Documents with President's Message, 1835.

In 1824, Congress appropriated \$10,000 to purchase the Gridley Farm, so called, including the ruins of Fort Putnam. The farm house, which had been used as a tavern, was removed to make way for the Hospital.

By an act dated March 2, 1826, the State of New York ceded the jurisdiction of 250 acres of land to the United States, reserving to itself however the right of serving process in civil and criminal cases upon the ceded territory. This grant includes but a small part of the property owned by the United States, and the remainder continues under the State government.

In 1834, a number of protests were attached to the main report of the visitors, and a spirit of dissent seemed to prevail. In 1840, two reports were presented, that of the minority being in bitter opposition to the Institution.

In 1838, a large building, containing the library, apparatus and models, was burnt down, but its contents were mostly saved, and the subsequent erection of two fine stone buildings has furnished room for the accommodation of the apparatus and books. The erection of a new building for the Cadets' barracks, has been strenuously urged for some years, but sufficient appropriations have not yet been made by Congress. The buildings at present in use

are inconvenient and uncomfortable; they contain but 96 rooms for the accommodation of 237 Cadets, and the consequence is that from two to five persons are crowded into one apartment, which must answer the purposes of a sitting room, bed room, and study. The rooms in the south barrack, about 12 feet square, are scarcely sufficient for one individual, and have the disadvantage of opening directly into the outer air. They are said to be cold and comfortless in winter, and badly ventilated in summer.

In 1839, Col. Totten reported that a course of instruction in riding and the cavalry drill was commenced, which met with entire success. The use of the horses in the artillery movements, also, gave to that an animation and interest it had not before possessed. The drawing of the cannon by hand had been very laborious to the Cadets, and after repeated solicitations, a body of horses was furnished for double use, in cavalry and artillery.

Of the actual condition of the Academy, Secretary Porter says, "the Military Academy at West Point exhibits continued evidence of improvement in the course of instruction; and the academic board are endeavoring to keep pace, in their system, with the advances which science is making in all parts of the world. It

continues annually to graduate a number of young gentlemen, taught, at the public expense, those branches of science, which are deemed essential to military operations." *

Col. Totten, chief engineer, also says, "I was careful to visit and examine each department of the Academy, looking into every thing with as close a scrutiny as it was in my power to exercise, and it gives me great pleasure to report to you that I found the Academy in a condition not less prosperous, and not less fully answering the designs of its establishment, than at any previous period; discipline, order, and harmony prevailed throughout, and as perfectly, perhaps, as belongs to human associations. * * * There is from year to year an increase in the amount, or an improvement in the character of the knowledge communicated, resulting from the experience of the Institution itself. The fact of this progress is evident on comparing periods a few years distant from each other; and is a natural result, on the one hand, of the zeal, ability, and devotion that have been unceasingly applied to the management and instruction; and on the other, of the steady adherence to safe and wise principles. For more than twenty-five years that the Institution has been thus rising from its second

* Message of the President, 1843, pp. 54. 55.

birth, no change has been grafted on its code of discipline or course of study that has not been the growth of its own experience. And by the force of this wise and cautious process, it has been continually developing new capacities and new fruits of self-cultivation. By continued adherence to this course, we may confidently look for all the improvement that the future can bring forth.” *

CHAPTER XXIII.†

STATISTICS OF GRADUATES.

THE whole number of Cadets admitted to the Academy from its establishment to January 1, 1844, is 2,942.

The number of graduates at that date	1,206
Number graduated June, 1844	- 25

Total, 1,231

From April 29, 1812 to January 29, 1844, the whole number of graduates was 1,118.

* President's Message, 1843. pp. 119, 120.

† Compiled from official reports in January, 1844.

Of these, there resigned within a year	
of their graduation, - - -	61
after more than a year from graduating,	323
declined commissions in the army -	6
were disbanded, dropped, or dismissed	33
were killed in action - - -	11
died in service - - - -	147
are now in service, (including five pro-	
fessors) - - -	537

The whole number of graduates in military service is 542, including 4 colonels, 6 lieutenant-colonels, 11 majors, 139 captains, 170 first lieutenants, 131 second lieutenants, 70 brevet second lieutenants, 5 paymasters, 1 military storekeeper, 5 professors.

The whole number of army officers is 716, including 174 appointed from civil life.

Of the 88 who graduated before 1812, nine fell in action during the war of 1812; 5 now remain in the service, and the remainder have died in service or left the army.

The number of those killed in action may appear small, but it must be remembered that we have had very few battles, and that in the Florida war especially exposure and hardships made more havoc than the enemy. "War," says Dr. Johnson, "has means of destruction more formidable than the cannon or the sword. By incommodious encampments and unwhole-

some stations, where courage is useless and enterprise is impracticable, fleets are silently dispeopled, and armies sluggishly melted away."

CHAPTER XXIV.

STATISTICS OF EXPENDITURES.

FROM the establishment of the Academy until the 30th of June, 1844, the aggregate amounts appropriated to defray its expenses, are

For ground, buildings, roads, library, apparatus, models, minerals, &c., &c.	-	-	\$ 711,399 88
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For pay and subsistence of officers, professors, teachers, and Cadets; fuel, postage, Boards of Visitors, and for other contingent and inci- dental expenses	-	-	3,291,501 27
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Total expenditure, \$ 4,002,901 15

Dividing the amount of incidental expenses (\$3,291,500) by the number of graduated offi-

cers, (1,231,) each officer has been educated at the expense of \$2,674.

Another way of estimating the present outlay for each graduate, is to add to \$100,000, (the average annual expenditure at this time,) \$49,000 the interest on the fixed capital invested in buildings, &c., and divide the number by 40, the average number of graduates. This calculation gives \$3,725 as the expense for each Cadet who enters the army.

These estimates may appear large, but the expenditure is far more useful and economical than many that have been made of public money. It is said, (on good authority,) that though all the disbursements for military operations, amounting to two or three millions of dollars annually, are made by army officers, in not a single case has a *graduate of the Academy* proved a defaulter to the amount of a dollar; whereas in the Florida war alone, hundreds of thousands were lost by the dishonesty of officers appointed from civil life. Hence the enormous expense of that war, and the actual loss of a sum sufficient to support the Academy for ten or twelve years.

CHAPTER XXV.

OFFICERS AT WEST POINT.

ACADEMIC STAFF.

Year of
graduation.

- 1818 RICHARD DELAFIELD, Major of Engineers, *Superintendent and Commandant.*
- 1823 DENNIS H. MAHAN, A. M., *Professor of Civil and Military Engineering.*
- 1841 H. G. WRIGHT, 2d Lieut. of Engineers, *Assistant Professor.*
- 1842 JOHN NEWTON, 2d Lieut. of Engineers, *Acting Assistant Professor.*
- 1842 WILLIAM S. ROSECRANS, 2d Lieut. of Engineers, *Acting Assistant Professor.*
- 1830 ALEXANDER J. SWIFT, Captain of Engineers, *Instructor of Practical Engineering.*
- 1825 WILLIAM H. C. BARTLETT, A. M., *Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy.*
- 1835 JOSEPH ROBERTS, 1st Lieut. 4th Art., *Assistant Professor.*
- 1840 WILLIAM GILHAM, 1st Lieut. 3d Art., *Acting Assistant Professor.*
- 1828 ALBERT E. CHURCH, A. M., *Professor of Mathematics.*
- 1837 ISRAEL VOGDES, 1st Lieut. 1st Art., *Assistant Professor.*
- 1835 WRIGHTMAN K. HANSON, 1st Lieut. and Bvt. Capt. 7th Inf., *Acting Assistant Professor.*
- 1840 FRANCIS N. CLARK, 2d Lieut. 4th Art., *Acting Assistant Professor.*

Year of
graduation.

- 1841 ALBION P. HOWE, 2d Lieut. 4th Art., *Acting Assistant Professor.*
- 1841 HARVEY A. ALLEN, 2d Lieut. 2d Art., *Acting Assistant Professor.*
- 1842 ALEXANDER P. STEWART, 2d Lieut. 3d Art., *Acting Assistant Professor.*
- 1832 JACOB W. BAILEY, A. M., *Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology.*
- 1835 HENRY L. KENDRICK, 1st Lieut. 2d Art., *Assistant Professor.*
- 1826 Rev. M. P. PARKS, *Chaplain and Professor of Ethics.*
- 1837 ELIAKIM P. SCAMMON, 2d Lieut. Top. Engineers, *Assistant Professor.*
- 1842 RICHARD W. JOHNSTON, 2d Lieut. 3 Art., *Acting Assistant Professor.*
- CLAUDIUS BERARD, } *Teachers of the French Lan-*
H. R. AGNEL, } *guage.*
- T. D'OREMIEULX, 2d Lieut. 1st Inf., *Acting Teacher*
- ROBT. W. WEIR, N. A. *Teacher of Drawing.*
- 1834 RICHARD S. SMITH, 2d Lieut. 7th Inf., *Acting Teacher.*
- 1829 MINER KNOWLTON, 1st Lieut. 1st Art., *Instructor of Artillery and Cavalry.*
- 1833 J. ADDISON THOMAS, Capt. 3d Art., *Commandant of Cadets and Instructor of Infantry Tactics.*
- 1838 ROBERT S. GRANGER, 1st Lieut. 1st Inf., *Assistant Instructor.*
- 1839 HENRY S. BURTON, 1st Lieut. 3d Art., *Assistant Instructor.*
- 1839 LUCIUS H. ALLEN, 2d Lieut. 2d Art., *Assistant Instructor.*
- 1841 ROBERT S. GARNETT, 2d Lieut. 4th Art., *Assistant Instructor.*
- H. R. HERSHBERGER, *Instructor of Riding.*

MILITARY STAFF.

Year of
graduation.

- 1838 IRVIN McDOWELL, 1st Lieut. 1st Art., *Adjutant of the Academy and Secretary of the Academic Board.*
- 1838 HENRY C. WAYNE, 1st Lieut. 1st Art., *Assistant Com. and Quarter Master.*
- 1815 CHARLES DAVIES, *Paymaster and Treasurer of the Academy.*
- WALTER V. WHEATON, *Surgeon.*
- CHARLES M. HITCHCOCK, M. D., *Assistant Surgeon.*

CHAPTER XXVI.

Synopsis of the Course of Studies at the U. S. Military Academy—June, 1844.

FIRST CLASS.			TEXT BOOKS, ETC.
DEPARTMENT.	INSTRUCTORS.		
Engineering, and Science of War.	Prof. Mahan, Lieut. Wright, Lieut. Newton, Lieut. Rosecrans.	Military Engineering.—Treatise on Field Fortification. do Lithographic Notes on Permanent Fortification, Attack and Defence, Mines and other accessories, Composition of Armies, Strategy, &c. Civil Engineering.—Course of Civil Engineering. Lithographic Notes on Architecture, Stone Cutting and Machines.	
Ethics.	Prof. Parks, Lieut. Seamon.	Blair's Rhetoric. Wayland's Elements of Moral Science abridged. Kent's Commentaries. Hedge's Elements of Logic.	
Infantry Tactics.	Capt. Thomas.	Rules and Regulations for the Exercise and Manœuvres of the United States' Infantry.	
Artillery.	Lieut. Knowlton.	U. S. Artillery Tactics. Kinsley's Pyrotechny. Thibault's Instruction Theoretique et Pratique d'Artillerie. Knowlton's Notes on Gunpowder, Percussion Powder, Cannon and Projectiles.	
Mineralogy and Geology.	Prof. Bailey, Lieut. Kendrick.	Dana's Mineralogy. Hitchcock's Geology.	

CHAPTER XXVII.

DIFFERENT OPINIONS CONCERNING THE ACADEMY.

MUCH opposition has been felt to the Military Academy arising from various causes and expressed in different ways. State Legislatures have passed resolutions condemning the principles and practice of the whole system. Committees in Congress have considered the subject in every light. Petitions have been sent from various sources praying for the abolition of the Institution. But still it stands and is destined to stand for good or evil.

Some, (many, it is presumed,) have unreasonable prejudices against the Academy, arising from ignorance of its true character; others oppose it from disappointed expectations, or persuaded by the bitter hostility of those who are supposed to understand the whole matter; others, from that leveling system which would break down every literary, every scientific fabric in society, and reduce all to the chaotic state of ignorance; and others still see some evils that really exist. For ourselves, so vast

is the subject, so great and intricate its influence, that it is unbecoming to decide hastily upon the various questions, and we prefer to present very briefly the objections brought against the Academy, and the replies of its friends. For farther information the reader is referred to the Congressional reports of Col. R. M. Johnson, in 1834, and of Hon. F. O. J. Smith, in 1837; to Park's History of West Point, and to the annual reports of the Boards of Visitors.

It is objected that the Cadets form no part of the effective military force of the government; that they are educated gratuitously at the public expense, and with an enormous outlay; that when educated they make no adequate return, even if they enter the service, and that too large a number for the wants of the public are graduated; that the power and duty of instituting seminaries of learning belong to the States and are improperly exercised by Congress. Objections are also made against the method of appointment, the exclusiveness of the Institution, and the want of moral power and influence over the Cadets.

These replies are made. The Cadets are in fact in the military service, and are so recognised by law. If needed for action they are ready and competent to enter the field at any moment; and in their present situation, they

are young officers preparing themselves for duty. The "gratuitous education" is but a salary for their services, and in return for this they bind themselves to serve in the army at least four years after graduating, and this term may if necessary be increased by Congress.

Though Congress may not properly establish a system of common school instruction to extend through the whole country, it is claimed to have the power of establishing places of instruction for such as are needed in the army and navy. And if a few must be educated in this way the additional expense of an increased number is trifling compared with the advantages. Indeed, the question has been agitated, and is worthy of consideration, whether the character of the Institution should not be so modified as to admit any number of young men, not designing to enter the army, to be educated at a trifling expense, in a partial or complete course.

The incidental benefits of the Academy to the country are not small. Although the studies pursued are not the best adapted as a preparation for other professions than the military, a few of the graduates have become conspicuous in literary institutions, and many have been of great public advantage as accomplished civil engineers. But chiefly in its effects upon the

army has the Academy been of service. The application of science to military operations is especially desirable, and has ever been attended with advantage. The character of the army must always be dependent upon the reputation of its officers; and the best state of preparation for national defence, without the evil of a standing army, can be attained by sending out from time to time numbers of well educated men, competent to take command in the army, or in the militia of their several States.

In regard to the expenses of the Institution, it is doubtful whether more economy could in any way be practised in its management, and almost certain that officers as accomplished could be introduced into the service in no other way with less expense.

The method of appointing the Cadets can hardly be objected to when fully understood. Each Congressional district is entitled to a Cadet, and the selection depends almost entirely upon the representative from the district, his selection from among the applicants being in general approved by the Secretary of War. Beside these the President has the power of appointing ten *at large* each year.* Though

* The number of Cadets is limited to the number of representatives and delegates in Congress—with one from the District of Columbia, and ten at large—making 237 in all.

favoritism may sometimes be exercised, it is likely to occur in all government appointments, and would influence the selection of officers if there were no Academy. But the present plan is as just as any which could be devised. In theory, at least, no respect is paid to aristocracy; the rich and poor stand on common ground, and after entering the Institution, they can purchase no favor by wealth or influence.

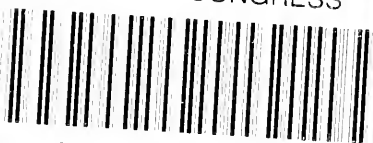
A more serious objection in the minds of some is the moral effect of the Institution. They say that the spirit of war is inconsistent with the spirit of the gospel, and it is lamentable that the maxim should be so forcibly illustrated in this seminary; that the entire neglect of a daily public recognition of the existence of a Supreme Ruler, the high handed violation of the Sabbath in the inspection of the whole corps, and in the parades with martial music, and the excessive ambition that is fostered, may well excite apprehension for the influence exerted on those who are in the Academy. Military discipline, it is admitted, does much in respect to the outward conduct, but it makes, for the time being at least, slaves, not men—too much so, for a country like ours. Its despotism looks not to moral influence for aid, and till it does it must be unsuccessful.

To this, when any reply is made, it is said,

that the Sabbath parade at West Point, is far different from the same show elsewhere ; it is a regular routine, and no novelty ; a mere matter of course, that need not divert the minds of those engaged in it from the most devout meditations ; the Cadets are as well fitted in mind and body to attend church after it, as if they had spent the hour or two hours in their rooms. Some years since the trial was made of dispensing with the Sabbath display, and the result was that indolence and negligence were encouraged, and the morning was wasted in idleness or in dissipation. Again, it is said that for five years past the character of the corps has been improving ; morality has gained a strong foothold, and in general conduct the Cadets may be favorably compared with almost any body of students in the country ; and the subsequent career of those who have graduated, is appealed to as good evidence of the beneficial effects of the Institution.



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